

## Surface Transportation Board, DOT

## § 1012.1

and the implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 1150, subpart D; and

(ii) For rail transactions under 49 U.S.C. 11343 and the implementing regulations at 49 CFR 1180.2(d).

(12) Whether to issue rail modified certificates of public convenience and necessity under 49 CFR part 1150, subpart C.

(13) Whether to waive the regulations at 49 CFR part 1152, subpart C, on appropriate petition.

(14) To reject applications, petitions for exemption, and verified notices (filed in class exemption proceedings) for noncompliance with the environmental rules at 49 CFR part 1105.

(15) To reject applications by Burlington Northern Railroad Company to abandon rail lines in North Dakota exceeding the 350-mile cap of section 402 of Public Law 97-102, 95 Stat. 1465 (1981), as amended by The Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1992, Public Law 102-143, section 343 (Oct. 28, 1991).

(16) Whether to extend the 120-day limit within which 49 U.S.C. 10706(b)(3)(B)(vii) mandates that rate bureaus shall finally dispose of rules or rates docketed with them.

(17) Whether, absent controversy or unusual circumstances, to issue notices of provisional recertification under *State Intrastate Rail Rate Authority*, 5 I.C.C.2d 680, 684 (1989).

(d) *Office of Compliance and Enforcement.* The Office of Compliance and Enforcement is delegated the authority to:

(1) Reject tariffs and railroad transportation contract summaries filed with the Board that violate applicable statutes, rules, or regulations. Any rejection of a tariff or contract summary may be by letter signed by or for the Director, Office of Compliance and Enforcement, or the Chief, Section of Tariffs, Office of Compliance and Enforcement.

(2) Issue, on written request, informal opinions and interpretations on carrier tariff provisions, which are not binding on the Board.

(3) Grant or withhold special tariff authority granting relief from the provisions of 49 CFR part 1312. Any grant or withholding of such relief may be by letter signed by or for the Director, Of-

fice of Compliance and Enforcement, or the Chief, Section of Tariffs, Office of Compliance and Enforcement.

(4) Resolve any disputes that may arise concerning the applicability of motor common carrier rates under 49 U.S.C. 13710(a)(2).

[58 FR 29357, May 20, 1993, as amended at 62 FR 50884, Sept. 29, 1997]

### PART 1012—MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Sec.

1012.1 General provisions.

1012.2 Time and place of meetings.

1012.3 Public notice.

1012.4 Public participation.

1012.5 Transcripts; minutes.

1012.6 Petitions seeking to open or close a meeting.

1012.7 Meetings which may be closed to the public.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552b(g), 49 U.S.C. 701, 721.

SOURCE: 42 FR 13796, Mar. 11, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 1012.1 General provisions.

(a) The regulations contained in this part are issued pursuant to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552b(g), added by section 3(a) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Pub. L. 94-409 (Act), and section 17(3) of the Interstate Commerce Act. They establish procedures under which meetings of the Surface Transportation Board (Board), Divisions of the Board (Division), and standing committees of the Board are held. They apply to oral arguments as well as to deliberative conferences. They apply to meetings of the Board and of Divisions and committees of the Board where the Division or committee is empowered to act on the Board's behalf, but not where a Division or committee is meeting only to formulate an internal recommendation to the Board. They include provisions for giving advance public notice of meetings, for holding meetings which may lawfully be closed to the public, and for issuing minutes and transcripts of meetings.

(b) The words *meeting* and *conference* are used interchangeably in this part to mean the deliberations of at least a majority of the members of the Board, a Division, or a committee of the Board

where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official Board business. They do not include meetings held to determine whether some future meeting should be open or closed to the public. They do not include the deliberations of members of boards of employees of the Board.

(c) These regulations are not intended to govern situations in which members of the Board consider individually and vote by notation upon matters which are circulated to them in writing. Copies of the votes or statements of position of all Board Members eligible to participate in action taken by notation voting will be made available, as soon as possible after the date upon which the action taken is made public or any decision or order adopted is served, in a public reading room or other easily accessible place within the Board, or upon written request to the Secretary of the Board.

#### **§ 1012.2 Time and place of meetings.**

(a) Conferences, oral arguments, and other meetings are held at the Board's headquarters building at the northwest corner of 12th Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC, unless advance notice of an alternative site is given. Room assignments for meetings will be posted on the day of the meeting at the Constitution Avenue entrance to the Surface Transportation Board building and at the Board's Public Information Office (Room 1211).

(b) Regular Board conferences are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, or on the following day if the regular conference day is a holiday. Oral arguments before the Board are normally scheduled on the first or third Wednesday of each month. Regular Board conferences and oral arguments before the Board or a Division normally begin at 9:30 a.m. A luncheon recess is taken at approximately noon, and other recesses may be called by the presiding officer. Times for reconvening following a recess, or on subsequent days if a conference or oral argument lasts more than one day, are set by the presiding officer at the time the recess is announced.

(c) Special Board conferences, Division conferences, oral arguments before

a Division, and meetings of committees of the Board are scheduled by the Chairman of the Board or of the respective Division or committee.

(d) If one or more portions of the same meeting are open to the public while another portion or other portions are closed, all those portions of the meeting which are open to the public are scheduled at the beginning of the meeting agenda, and are followed by those portions which are closed.

#### **§ 1012.3 Public notice.**

(a) Unless a majority of the Board determines that such information is exempt from disclosure under the Act, public notice of the scheduling of a meeting will be given by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Board's Public Information Office, by filing a copy of the notice with the Secretary of the Board for posting and for service on all parties of record in any proceeding which is the subject of the meeting or any other person who has requested notice with respect to meetings of the Board, and by submitting a copy of the notice for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) Public notice of a scheduled meeting will contain:

(1) The date, time, place, and subject matter of the meeting.

(2) Whether it is open to the public.

(3) If the meeting or any portion of the meeting is not open to the public, an explanation of the action taken in closing the meeting or portion of the meeting, together with a list of those expected to attend the meeting and their affiliations.

(4) If a vote is taken on the question whether to close a meeting or a portion of a meeting to the public, a statement of the vote or position of each Board Member eligible to participate in that vote. If such a vote is taken, public notice of its result will be posted within one working day following completion of the voting. If the result of the vote is to close the meeting or a portion of the meeting, an explanation of that action will be included in the notice to be issued within one working day following completion of the voting. The public notice otherwise required by this subparagraph may be withheld if the